

2016.10.05

The Master in Animal Law and Society (UAB)

Above all else, and as an absolute premise, we are at the service of Animals; this is the sole and genuine reason that the Master in Animal Law and Society at the UAB has existed from the beginning.

The Master in Animal Law and Society is a Master that the UAB, a public University, makes available for training professionals that seek to effectively dedicate themselves to improving the condition of animals in today's Society, which is, after all, a global society, for better or worse.

This University (and, more specifically, this *public* University), which is by definition a centre of investigation and teaching, has a duty toward society to effectively transfer knowledge; not only to teach technique, but to passionately transfer what is passionately studied and loved. In our case, this is Animals, with a capital A.

It is the first and only Master in Europe (both onsite and online) that wants to train experts in Animal Law - an emerging legal subject that already has a solid foundation in many countries and that is experiencing visible and accelerated growth across the world¹.

It is the only Master in Animal Law in the world that offers a complete and holistic training in terms of:

1. The **subjects**: it offers the legal study of animals along pathways recognised as effective in the study plans, officially approved for all university trajectories (civil, criminal, procedural, commercial, constitutional, ethical, corporate, labour and international issues).

But the originality and uniqueness of the Master lies in:

2. The **perspective**, which is transversal and international.

a) As well as the aforementioned subjects, transversal entails the applied teaching of Animal Welfare Sciences (Etology, Biology, Experimentation, Clinical Veterinary Sciences), or Medicine (Nutrition, Clinical and cooperative), as well as the Humanities and Social Sciences (Psychology, History, Economics, Communication, applied Ethics, and Public Policy).

b) International, as the teaching is approached from a comparative perspective with other legal regimes, with no exceptions. It departs from the basic Comparative perspective between the Civil Law and the Common Law, and dedicates special attention to the most advanced countries in terms of animal protection (USA, Australia, the UK, Germany, France and the EU), as well as emerging countries (China and Egypt).

3 The **tools**:

- The ICALP, which is the “nursery” in which ideas, projects and the personal capacity for development are formed.
- The legal website (www.derechoanimal.info) - the only specialised one in Spain –

which is the soul for training future experts in Animal Law;

- the “Animal Debates”, which take place monthly at the Centre of Investigation ICALP, open to everyone, to table, in a practical, concrete and accessible way, the questions we work on, that our invitees work on, or that are concerns of society and that are continually changing;
- the collections of books, articles, videos, and databases of the Libraries of Catalonia and the great Universities of the world that are interconnected and accessible for those registered on the Master, as well as the Tirant lo Blanch Library for those undertaking the online Master;
- the collection of our own books published by the prestigious legal editorial “Tirant lo Blanch”, reflecting the most recent legal advancements in Animal Law, as well as the works that assess the theoretical and practical thinking on animals;
- the visits to scientific institutions or animal establishments such as farms, shelters, sanctuaries, and international institutions
- the organisation of seminars, workshops and conferences

4. The **mission**: our mission is to train professionals in Animal Law that can cope in the global environment by being highly qualified. We train professionals that society demands in the way that it demands, which is, fortunately, always more ambitious than we estimate.

Our mission is both professional and investigative: we train professionals that want to know more so as to work better for Animals, and we train investigators in Animal Law to prepare ourselves for the demand for scientific knowledge on animals and its application in public policy by legal systems throughout the world. It is for this reason that we have opened our own line of investigation in the Law Faculty of the UAB, on “Animal Law and Global Society”, in which various theses have already been read and other investigations are making progress, some already concluded in the form of Investigative Projects, others currently being elaborated as Projects or doctoral theses. To encourage this investigative drive, we have established a “Class of Doctorates in Animal Law” (AddA), which meets on a bi-monthly basis as a platform of learning and practice of investigation techniques, and as a conference opportunity for the intellectual stimulation of all participants.

5. The **structure**: the Master consists of three distinct parts:

- a) the onsite classes developed in intensive sessions and with seminars. Once a month, submissions of practical works or written essays are made - the product of talent promoted through the written or mental scheme, or argumentation.
- b) the curricular internships that are undertaken for a minimum of 80 hours with highly renowned collaborative entities found all across the world.
- c) the final investigative work, or “Trabajo Final de Master” (abbreviated to TFM). This is a unique opportunity to learn the techniques of investigation under the supervision of an expert - the TFM supervisor. Following the academic path, the TFM is read and defended in public before a panel of renowned specialists that provide feedback and constructive criticism.

6. The **most important factor**: the H Factor (= the Human Factor), which is fourfold:

a) **Students**: without doubt, the first and foremost factor. Our Students come from all over world, from all known cultures and backgrounds, universities or otherwise (jurists, veterinarians, biologists, political scientists, economists, communicators, police, philosophers, archaeologists, bankers, physiotherapists, horse trainers). The Students are our most precious treasure.

b) The **Alumni**: we have adopted a version of the Latin dictum (used in reference to inheritance) that reads: *semel Alumnos, Semper Alumni*. It means: once a student, always a student. We have not (yet) formed an association, but our former students form part of our daily work, with some incorporated as teachers, others as directors of the collaborative entities where new students undertake internships, others as collaborators of the website, others opening paths to animals with their work in shelters, in courts, in national parliaments, in laboratories, in maritime reserves, in offices as lawyers, in fashion magazines or in the press and on radio.

c) **Professors**: before all else, our faculty teaches. The role of professors is in the university office that consists of teaching and transmitting, in *delivering with enthusiasm* (as put by Eugeni d'Ors, the father of my teacher). They come from many countries and are inspired by an immense desire to promote the study of Animal Law, in spite of the fatigue suffered and distance covered in getting here. We rely on great professionals, some true "heroes" of Animal Law, and we also incorporate newcomers that begin their new role of transmitting with confidence and enthusiasm. We are proud to work with lawyers, public prosecutors, judges, veterinarians and experts to make their classes a place of dialogue and peaceful learning.

d) **Team**: Solid, cohesive and different, searching for the best, even when it is by no means the easiest, and far from close; perhaps this is our secret.

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ⁱ The Master received, along with PETA (Germany) the prestigious Prize (Respect for Animals) from the "CyO" Foundation. See the news of the award (<http://www.derechoanimal.info/esp/page/4618/ceremonia-de-entrega-premio-cyo-al-master-enderecho-animal-y-peta>)